

Grove Farm  
Terrick  
Buckinghamshire



**Archaeological  
Watching Brief Report**



**Oxford Archaeology**

November 2004

**Client: Mr and Mrs Brunt**

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## Grove Farm, Terrick, Buckinghamshire

### *ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*

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## SUMMARY

*On the 23rd November 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Grove Farm, Terrick, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 836 081). The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Brunt in advance of the construction of a new house extension. The watching brief encountered no archaeological features or deposits.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 On the 23rd November 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Grove Farm, Terrick, Buckinghamshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Brunt in respect of a planning application for a two storey extension to the side of the house (Planning Application No.04/5556).
- 1.1.2 A project brief drawing on the results of a prior evaluation (OA 2004), was discussed with and set by David Radford of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service and Chris Welch, English Heritage Inspector for the South east Region.
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2004).

#### 1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on overlying clay loam soils on Cretaceous chalk and friable limestone beds at 118 m above OD. The farmhouse is located to the north of the A4010 between Little Kimble and Nash Lee. It is set in pasture land and is a current working farm.

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA 2004) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 Little is known of the prehistoric period in this part of Buckinghamshire. Wendover's proximity to the river, its position on the Upper Icknield Way and its possible position on a crossroads of two important early routeways suggests that the area may have proved an attractive site for settlement during the Neolithic and later prehistoric periods.
- 1.3.3 In the Bronze Age this area is characterised by an expanding population necessitating the utilisation of previously marginal or difficult land. The obvious utilisation of the high ground by Bronze Age societies is evidenced by the remnants of field systems that are scattered over the Chilterns. A ranch boundary thought to date to this period can also be seen on the scarp overlooking Wendover (OAU 1999). There are also a number of round barrows on the Chiltern scarp which overlook the Upper Icknield Way, two of these lie just outside the Study Area to the south-west. The line of the

Ickneild Way along the scarp is often associated with evidence for Bronze Age burial mounds on the adjacent higher ground.

- 1.3.4 The hillfort of Boddington Hill (*c* 2.5 km to the east of the site) is of Iron Age date. It lies above the gap in the Chilterns and overlooks the Ickneild Way, which continued to be used as a major line of communication during this period. Earthworks of former defensive hillforts and dykes to control trade are often found along the scarp, and perhaps the siting of Boddington illustrates the importance of the area of land over which Wendover now lies.
- 1.3.5 The British tribe who occupied the land within the Study Area were the powerful *Catuvellauni* whose defiance of Rome prompted the invasion of Britain. By the end of 43 AD (the year of the main Roman invasion) the tribe's land lay inside the Plautian frontier zone and was firmly under Roman military control. During this period, the old tribal area would probably have been administered from *Verulamium* (St. Albans) or from *Londinium* (London).
- 1.3.6 The site lies *c* 2.8 km to the south and east of the Lower Ickneild Way, a Roman Road which connects with Akeman Street *c* 3.5 km to the north of the town. The Upper Ickneild Way is still likely to have been in use at this time, particularly for the movement of livestock. The strategic location of the site of Wendover situated on a stream in the mouth of a gap through the Chilterns, associated with both the new and old routeways, may have been as attractive to the Romans for settlement as suggested for the prehistoric. However, no evidence for a Roman origin to the settlement has yet been found.
- 1.3.7 The scheduled area comprises the medieval moat and associated fishpond and a post-medieval dovecote. It seems most likely that the moat is representative of the original manorial site under the honour of Wolverton, which was sub-divided prior to AD 1122.
- 1.3.8 It seems probable that the manor served the borough of Wendover, a short distance to the east of the site. Wendover is first mentioned as a settlement in its own right in a charter of *c.* 970 AD as *Waendofron*, and as *Wendouvre* in the Domesday book of 1086. At the time of Domesday Wendover was a Royal manor and a considerable estate accounting for 24 hides, with land for 26 ploughs, meadow for 3 ploughs, 2 mills, and enough woodland for 2000 hogs (Morris 1978).
- 1.3.9 The exact date of the foundation of the borough of Wendover is not known although the borough was certainly in existence by 1227 (NMR 903971). Wendover appears to have been a pre-existing market settlement, and not established as a new town by any explicit charter (Hepple and Dogget 1994). The borough appears to have been carved from the large and dispersed Parish of Wendover (West, 1909), and is located on the staggered crossroads of the Old Ickneild Way and the main London to Aylesbury road, where it leaves the gap through the Chiltern Hills (see Section 3.2). From examination of later maps it appears that the core of the original Medieval borough is likely to have been what is now Pound Street, South Street, High Street and North Street. There also appears to be a second, probably earlier core to the south focusing

around the church, which has 12th century origins. The house fronts and burgage plots within the medieval core are likely to have been laid out sometime in the medieval period, including those plots along Pound Street. The burgage plots themselves would have been fully utilised by the occupants of the house, for gardens, storage, animals, workshops, domestic and human waste etc. The borough contained 121 burgages in the 13th century and extended over an area of 30 to 40 acres.

- 1.3.10 The 17th century Seytons Manor located immediately south-west of the moat is likely to be the post-medieval replacement of the earlier medieval moated manorial site.
- 1.3.11 An evaluation carried out by OA in June 2004 revealed a small ditch terminus containing fragments of roofing tile dating from the late medieval to early post-medieval period. This feature was thought to have represented a small boundary or enclosure ditch within the grounds of the moated site (OA 2004). If this does indeed represent a boundary terminus, then it appears only the east terminus of the entrance was exposed, leaving the potential for exposing the western terminus.

## 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The patio was removed and the ground level reduced to base of floor make up. The foundations were then marked out and excavated with a mini excavator fitted with a 0.6 m wide toothless bucket (Fig. 3). This was carried out under archaeological supervision.
- 2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100 and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (OAU 1992).

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Description of deposits

#### *Area of Extension (Fig. 3)*

- 3.1.1 The ground reduction of the site cleared away the foundations of the patio to a depth of between 0.3 - 0.4 m. The foundation trenches were then marked out and excavated to a depth of 1.2 m below present ground level cutting into the natural pale light brown sandy clay containing lenses of green sandstone (1). Overlying this was 0.10-

0.20 m of dark brown silty sand topsoil (2). The two service trenches for the water pipe (8) and rain water pipe (10), observed in the evaluation trench (OA 2004), continued across the site. These were sealed below a 0.15 m thick layer of very dark grey silty sand topsoil (3).

### ***Drain Pipe Trench (Fig. 3)***

3.1.2 This trench was excavated from the north-east corner of the site and ran north-east to the edge of the moat. It was 0.3 m wide and 0.5 m in depth and cut into the natural pale light brown sandy clay (1). Sealing this was a 0.25 m thick layer of old the topsoil (2) seen during ground reduction. This was sealed by 0.2 m of topsoil (3).

## **3.2 Finds**

3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

## **3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains**

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

## **4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

4.1.1 The watching brief did not reveal any further archaeological deposits or features associated with the ditch observed in the evaluation trench. The depth of foundation and service trenches excavated did not impact or expose the ditch to the north-west and no finds were retrieved that could date any of the deposits exposed.

4.1.2 If the ditch encountered during the evaluation was an entrance terminus, the other terminus lies at least 1.75 m further to the south and outside of the present development.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>
1	Natural				Natural	
2	Layer				Old Topsoil	
3	Layer				Topsoil	
4						
5						
6						
7						
8	Cut				Service Trench	
9	Fill				Fill of Trench	
10	Cut				Service Trench	
11	Fill				Fill of Trench	

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Albion Archaeology, 2002 *Earls Barton Quarry Western Extension: Environmental statement Desk-based Assessment*

BCAS, 2004 *Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation at Grove Farm, Terrick, Buckinghamshire*

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Margary, I D, 1967 *Roman Roads in Britain.* John Baker. London

Morris, 1979 (ed) *Domesday Book : Buckinghamshire* Phillimore & co. Chichester.

Northamptonshire Archaeology, 2002 *Earls Barton Quarry: Western Extension*

*Geophysical Survey and Fieldwalking plots Provisional Report*

OA 2004 Grove Farm, Aylesbury Road, Terrick, Buckinghamshire Written Scheme of Investigation

OA, 2004 *Grove Farm, Terrick, Buckinghamshire: An Archaeological Evaluation Report*

OAU, 1992 *Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson)

OAU, 1999 *The Ridgeway Historic Landscape Survey Eastern Section*, unpublished Summary Report

Reed, M, 1979 *The Buckinghamshire Landscape*. Holder and Stoughton. Sevenoaks.

**APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**

**Site name:** Grove Farm, Terrick, Buckinghamshire

**Site code:** WENGF 04

**Grid reference:** NGR SP 836 081

**Type of watching brief:** Ground works for construction of new house extension.

**Date and duration of project:** One visit on the 23/11/2004.

**Area of site:** 6.5 m x 9.5 m

**Summary of results:** The watching brief did not reveal any archaeological features or deposits.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: ABYCM:2004.56





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Figure 1: Site location

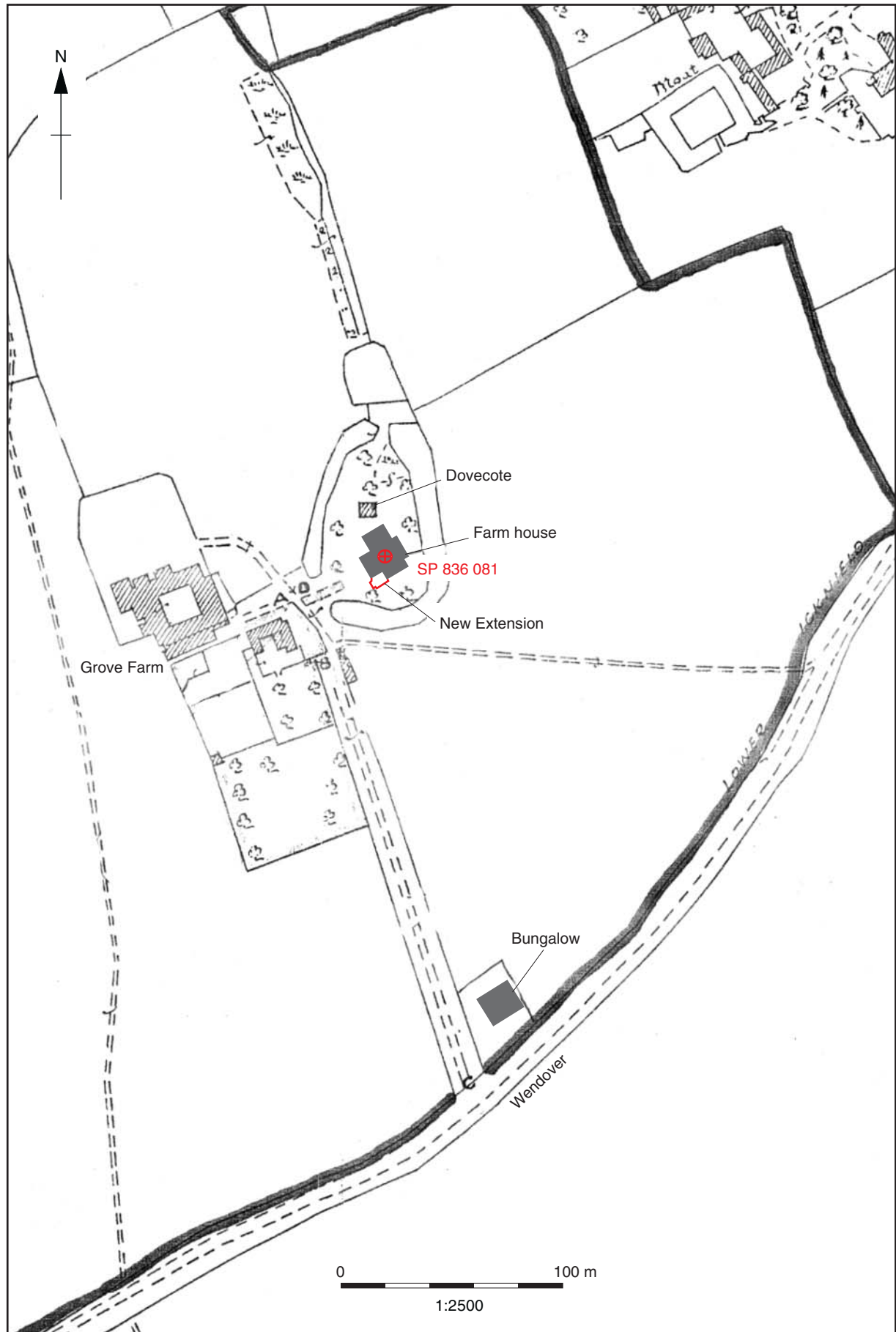


Figure 2: Watching brief area

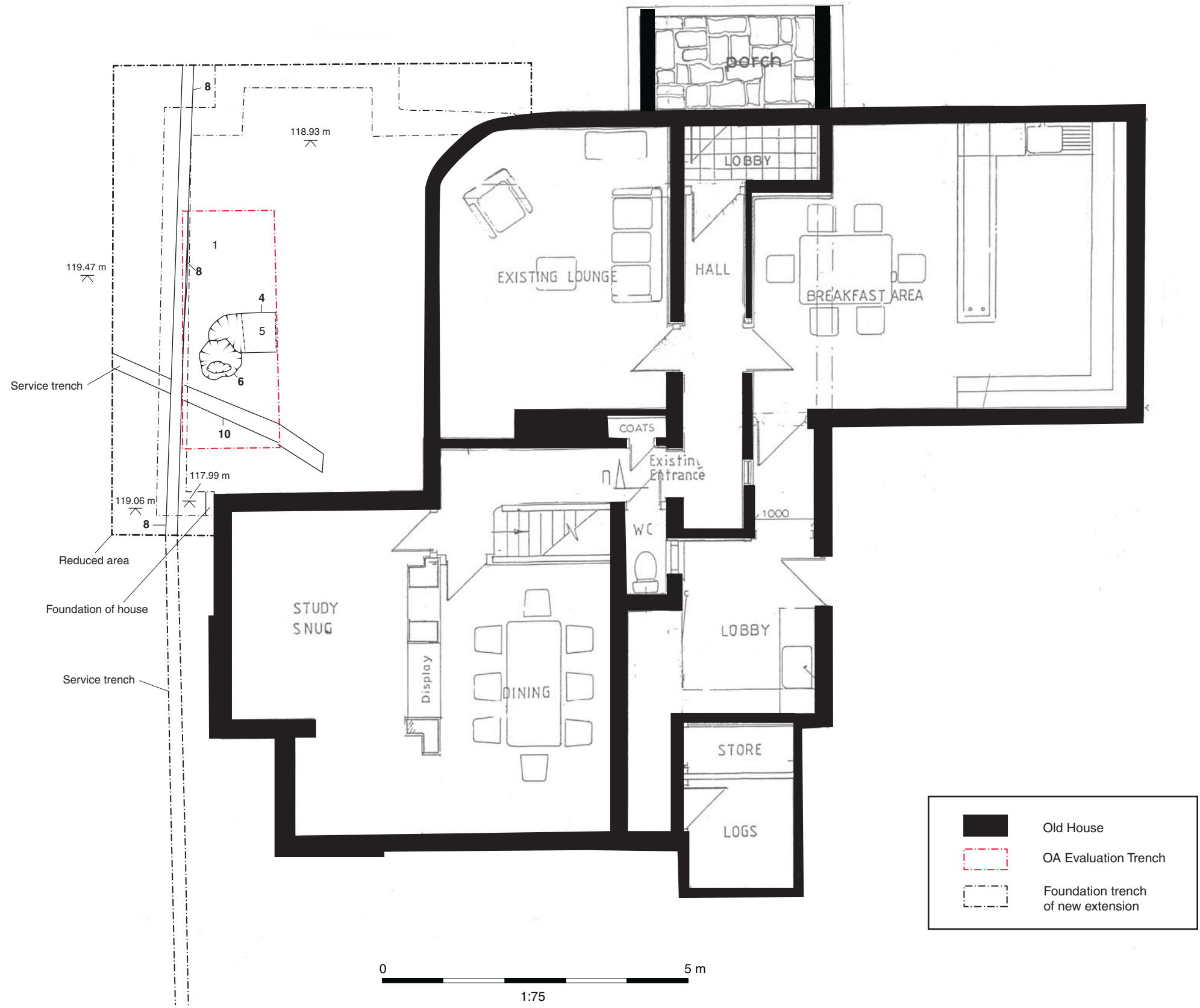
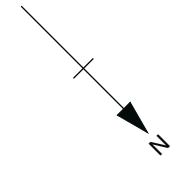


Figure 3: Plan of foundations and drainage trench